

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 PM-05 MCE-00 HA-05 DLOS-09
EUR-12 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-10 L-03
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TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 208037

FOR CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PCAT, MX, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN AND MEXICAN CAT INITIATIVES

REFERENCE: CARACAS 7623

1. THIS CABLE PROVIDES TALKING POINTS FOR YOUR MEET-
ING THURSDAY MORNING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CONSALVI
WHOM WE HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO THANK AGAIN FOR RECEIVING
CLAPP AND JONES, AND TO WHOM YOU SHOULD CONFIRM OUR INTEREST
IN WORKING CLOSELY WITH VENEZUELA ON AYACUCHO.

2. GENERAL.

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-- REFLECTING ON OUR TALKS WITH YOU AND GONZALEZ GALVEZ,
WE SEE NEXT WEEK'S MEXICO CITY MEETING MAINLY AS AN
OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE GENERAL AWARENESS OF CAT ISSUES,
AND PARTICULARLY OF REGIONAL RELATIONSHIP TO GLOBAL DEVELOP-
MENTS IN UN FRAMEWORK.

-- WE HOPE THAT VENEZUELA, AS A SPONSOR WITH MEXICO OF THE

JOINT FRAMEWORK FOR A REGION-WIDE LATIN AMERICAN EFFORT
AT RESTRAINT, WILL BE ABLE TO COORDINATE THAT EMERGING OVER-
ALL PROCESS WITH ITS PRIOR

AYACUCHO INITIATIVE, WHOSE ADVANTAGE IS THE EXISTING
COMMITMENT OF COUNTRIES KEY TO EFFECTIVE ARMS RESTRAINT.

-- ASSUMING THAT THE AYACUCHO COUNTRIES MAKE ADDITIONAL
PROGRESS IN THE INTERIM, THE PROPOSAL IN THE DRAFT
MEXICAN WORKING DOCUMENT FOR A REGION-WIDE SEPTEMBER 1979
FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING COULD FIT NICELY WITH GOV'S
CONTINUING EFFORTS ON AYACUCHO.

-- THE OPERATIONAL KEY, WE SUSPECT, WILL BE LESS WHAT
CAN BE ACHIEVED IN MEXICO CITY THAN HOW FAST THINGS
MOVE AMONG THE AYACUCHO COUNTRIES THIS YEAR
VENEZUELA'S PROPOSED DECEMBER 7 ANNIVERSARY MEETING --
AND THE ADVANCE TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL PREPARATIONS
NEEDED TO ENSURE ITS SUCCESS -- ARE CRITICAL.

-- ONE STEP, WHICH WOULD ASSUME PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE
SHOULD GOV DECIDE TO INVITE MEXICO OR OTHER NON-AYACUCHO
COUNTRIES (ASIDE FROM CUBA) IN SOME CAPACITY TO CARACAS
IN DECEMBER, WOULD BE A PREPARATORY MEETING JUST
AMONG THE AYACUCHO COUNTRIES. SUCH A MEETING, WHICH
COULD BE HELD IN OCTOBER, COULD MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRI-
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BUTION TO THE WORK THE MINISTERS.

3. WITH REGARD TO PROBLEMS RAISED PARAGRAPH THREE REFTTEL:

-- WE SHARE THE GOV'S CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES
OF UNCONTROLLED CUBAN OR SOVIET INVOLVEMENT.

-- WITH RESPECT TO GOMEZ MANTELLINI'S SPECULATION, HOWEVER,
WE ARE INCLINED TO CREDIT GONZALES GALVEZ ASSURANCE
TO CLAPP THAT MEXICANS AND SOVIETS HAVE NO REPEAT NO
"PRIVATE UNDERSTANDING", AND THAT MEXICANS ARE ALSO WARY
OF POSSIBILITIES OF SOVIET MEDDLING.

-- WE HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT INFORMED THE MEXICANS, HOWEVER,
OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL THAT THE DECEMBER ROUND OF US-SOVIET
BILATERAL CAT TALKS BE HELD IN MEXICO CITY, AND WOULD
APPRECIATE GOV'S ALSO NOT DOING SO.

-- AS CONCERNS CUBA, EARLY PROGRESS ON AYACUCHO WOULD
HAVE THE ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGE OF LIMITING CUBA'S ROLE TO
PLAYING CATCHUP IN THE WIDER REGIONAL TALKS WHERE ITS
PARTICIPATION COULD ULTIMATELY PROVE IMPORTANT.

4. US ROLE:

-- WE REMAIN AT THE GOV'S DISPOSAL TO ASSIST IN ANY WAY CONSALVI AND CAP FEEL BEST.

-- A LOGICAL FOCUS OF US EFFORTS MIGHT BE TO REWORK CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK PAPER OR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING TECHNICAL MATERIAL EITHER FOR DISTRIBUTION IN ADVANCE OF THE DECEMBER 7 MEETING, OR PREFERABLY FOR USE AT A TECHNICAL PREPARATORY MEETING AS SUGGESTED PARA. 2 ABOVE.

-- THE US AND VENEZUELA SHOULD REVIEW SITUATION ONCE
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MEXICO CITY MEETING CONCLUDES AND WE HAVE ALL HAD A CHANCE TO DIGEST ITS RESULTS.

5. QUESTION: IN THE EVENT THAT YOUR APPOINTMENT WITH CONSALVI IS CANCELLED OR TAKES PLACE AFTER NAVA LEAVES, WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THAT WE ASK DICK HOWARD (WHO HAS BEEN FOLLOWING THESE MATTERS AND IS IN TOUCH WITH GONZALEZ GALVEZ) TO SEEK NAVA OUT IN MEXICO CITY TO MAKE THESE SAME POINTS? CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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